Meet the Debian Technical Committee
Debian TC members

- Keith Packard
- Didier Raboud - rl
- Tollef Fog Heen
- Sam Hartman
- Phil Hands
- Margarita Manterola
- David Bremner
- Niko Tyni
What is the Debian Technical Committee?
Debian Constitution

§6.1

The Technical Committee may:
Debian Constitution §6.1.1

Decide on any matter of technical policy
Debian Constitution §6.1.2 & §6.1.3

Decide any technical matter where Developers' jurisdictions overlap

Make a decision when asked to do so

Tie-breaking
Debian Constitution §6.1.4
Overrule a Developer (requires a 3:1 majority).

Last-resort
Debian Constitution §6.1.5

Offer advice
Constraints
Debian Constitution §6.3.3
Public discussion and decision-making
Debian Constitution §6.3.5
No detailed design work
Debian Constitution §6.3.6

Technical Committee makes decisions only as last resort
Picking options

Constitutionally, we're asked to *break ties* amongst available options, after all efforts to resolve it via consensus have been *tried and failed*.
Offer advice and make our views known

The TC can offer you advice.
The Debian Technical Committee is a

- self-nominated & DPL-appointed
- last-resort
- conflict-resolution & advice-providing

body
Issues in front of the TC

Since DebConf16

https://bugs.debian.org/tech-ctte
Membership bugs

- #822803 - New CTTE member(s)
  - marga
- #829704 - Voting for TC Chair
- #836127 - New CTTE Members
  - bremner
- #860520 - Voting for TC Chair
- #836127 - New CTTE Members
  - ntyni
- #865485 - Voting for TC Chair
Decided

- #830344 - How should the TC help with a project roadmap?
  - Not directly
- #846002 - blends-tasks must not be priority:important
  - Recommendation
- #862051 - Rename nodejs back to node for buster, now that ax25-node has been removed?
  - Yes
Closed without a formal resolution

- [#830978] - Browserified javascript and DFSG 2
  - Clarified responsibilities
- [#839570] - Browserified javascript and DFSG 2 (reopening)
  - Clarified responsibilities
- [#835507] - Please clarify that sysvinit support decision is not going to expire
  - Declined
- [#841294] - Overrule maintainer of "global" to package a new upstream version
  - The maintainer orphaned "global"
- [#850887] - Decide proper solution for binutils' mips* bug
  - Solved without a formal resolution
- [#850967] - Clarify /usr/bin/foo should not be hardcoded even in upstream parts
  - Declined
- [#857257] - Supporting configuration file changes between versions in unstable/testing
  - Declined
Current

- #865929 - Advice on dealing with GRUB upgrade failure caused by init-select
We're often looking for new members
Term Expiry (§6.2.7)

On January 1st of each year the term of any Committee member who has served more than 42 months (3.5 years) and who is one of the two most senior members is set to expire on December 31st of that year.

- keithp - Keith Packard → 2017
- odyx - Didier Raboud → 2018
- tfheen - Tollef Fog Heen → 2018
- hartmans - Sam Hartman → 2018
- philh - Philip Hands → 2019
- marga - Margarita Manterola → 2020
- bremner - David Bremner → 2020
- ntyni - Niko Tnyi → 2020
Need fresh blood

We're roughly looking for at least one new member per year.
Not all issues are like #727708
TC work is

- often more social than technical
- about disagreements & conflicts
- at the broad technical level
- listening to what people have to say
- sometimes taking hard decisions
- essentially political
Required skillset

- Empathy
- Technical agility
- Mentorship
- Responsiveness
- Social sensitivity
- Cool-headed
The TC needs more diversity.
We need nominees!

- Nominate yourself
- Nominate someone else
Come talk to us if you have worries, questions, or else!

We're just developers.
We're looking into ways to improve the process
Our current discussions
How quick can the TC be?
Time spent on recruitment
Q & A
Open discussion
Thanks

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